(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) As the domestic demand for edible oils is around 10 million tonnes and domestic production of edible oils is around 7.5 million tonnes, the gap between demand and supply is met through import. However, to increase the production of oilseeds, Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) during Tenth Five Year Plan. The main objective of the scheme is to promote crop diversification in favour of oilseeds and pulses and also to provide flexibility to the States in implementation of the programme based on regionally differentiated approach. Under the scheme, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seeds, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seeds, distribution of seed minikits, distribution of plant protection chemicals, plant protection equipments, weedicides, supply of rhizobium culture/phosphate solublising sets and water carrying pipes, publicity etc. in order to disseminate information on improved production technologies amongst the farmers, block demonstrations and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) demonstrations are organized through State Department of Agriculture and Front Line Demonstrations through ICAR.

Reducing Agricultural Subsidy

3879. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is pressure on Government from International Organisation such as World Bank and IMF to reduce agricultural subsidy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that even developed nations like US provide agricultural subsidies;

(c) if so, the reasons for insisting that our country should cut down the farm subsidy; and

(d) the view taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.